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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/929,336	08/15/2001	Joseph A. Lomastro	108324-00001	8755

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DONGHAI D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3729

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/929,336

Applicant(s)

LOMASTRO ET AL.

Examiner

Donghai D. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 28-42 and 46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28-35, 37, 38, 40 and 41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 36, 39, 42 and 46 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show contact surface 219 (page 8, line 23) and support surface 304c (page 7, lines 14-15) as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the claimed inventions are method claims and it should not exceed 150 words in length. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "1999, ... filed ____." (Amendment a1, lines 2-3) should be --1999, now US Patent No. 6,290,550.--. The limitation.

Appropriate correction is required.

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: "METHOD FOR MAKING SAME POTENTIAL BLOCK".

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5. Claim 46 is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "The same potential block of claim of claim" should be --The method of claim--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The phrase "located outside said main body" is vague and indefinite. It is unclear what located outside the main body.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 28-32, 34, 37, 38, 40, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 3,548,367 to Bruetsch.

Regarding claim 28, Bruetsch disclose a method of making a same potential block (22), comprising: stamping (Col. 3, lines 27-30) a first metal piece (46) from a first sheet of metal (Fig. 1), said first metal piece including a first carrier strip and a plurality of first clips (48/56)

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extending from said first carrier strip (26); and inserting said plurality of first clips into a plurality of holes (38/54) of a main body (23) of the same potential block (22).

In regard to claim 29, Bruetsch discloses stamping (Col. 3, lines 27-30) a second metal piece (30) from a second sheet of metal (Fig. 1), said second metal piece including a second carrier strip (region contains 72), and a plurality of second clips (38/70) extending from said second carrier strip; inserting said plurality of second clips into said plurality of holes of said main body (Figs. 3-4).

Regarding claim 30, Bruetsch's Figs. 3-4 discloses positioning the first carrier strip within a hollow formed in said main body; positioning said second carrier strip within said hollow formed in said main body; and inserting a cap (32) into said hollow of said main body, said cap having a plurality of holes (Fig. 8) aligning with said plurality of holes formed in said main body (Col. 3, lines 9-12).

Regarding claim 31, Fig. 6 of Bruetsch shows pressing portions of said first carrier strip (74, etc.) against portions of said second carrier strip (72, etc.).

Regarding claims 32, 40 and 41, Bruetsch discloses the steps of attaching a pin (36) to a ground/signal/power shield wire of a cable (40, Fig. 1); and inserting (Figs. 3-4) the pin into one of said plurality of holes formed in said main body to create an electrical connection between said ground/signal/power wire and said exterior contact portion (Col. 3, line 72 to col. 4, line 2).

Regarding claim 34, Bruetsch disclose the step of physically attaching and electrically connecting the same potential block (22) to a first connector (60/62), Figs. 1-3).

Regarding claim 37, Bruetsch discloses the step of bending the second carrier strip to form "U"-shaped projections extending from said second carrier strip (Fig. 6).

Regarding claim 38, Bruetsch discloses step of bending extensions extending (72 and side tab, fig. 6) from a side of said second carrier strip opposite a side from which said plurality of second clips extend, and the step of pressing the extensions extending from a side of said second carrier strip against the first carrier strip (figs. 6-7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruetsch in view of US Patent 5,575,691 to Matthews.

Regarding claim 33, Bruetsch disclose the step of insertion the pin except removing the pin inserted with an insertion and extraction tool. However, Matthews teaches an insertion and extraction tool (306) being use for removing the pin (col. 2, lines 35-40). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bruetsch by using the insertion and extraction tool to remove the pin as taught by Matthews.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 36, 39, 42, and 46 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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13. Claim 35 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donghai D. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-7859. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter D. Vo can be reached on (703) 308-1789. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7307 for regular communications and (703) 305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

DN
April 21, 2003



PETER VO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700